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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE September 22, 2004

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JENNIFER JAYNE MEMORIAL CASA BEAR AWARD PRESENTED

The Jennifer Jayne Memorial CASA Bear Award was presented Sept. 9, 2004 to Barbara Feaster for her tireless efforts as a child advocate. A court appointed special advocate, or CASA, serves as the eyes and ears of the Office of the Guardian ad Litem and the court by gathering relevant information about the child and the family, as well as getting to know the child one-on-one.

Feaster is the co-founder of U-Foster-Success, which is a child advocacy organization comprised of foster alumni. She is chair of the Salt Lake Child Abuse Prevention Team, and the Division of Child and Family Services child client representative for Utah on the Federal Child and Family Services Review Team. In addition, Feaster is an advocate of child welfare issues during the legislative session. Feaster is herself a parent, child abuse survivor and former foster youth.

Former recipients of the award include the late Senator Pete Suazo, DocuMart, and Jeanlee Carver, a nurse practitioner with the Children's Justice Center in Second District.

The Jennifer Jayne Memorial CASA Bear Award was created in 2000 to recognize individuals who have provided leadership and service in child advocacy. The Office of the Guardian ad Litem and CASA created the award in recognition of Jennifer Jayne and her dedication and exemplary service in improving advocacy for children through the Office of the Guardian ad Litem and CASA. Jayne died in a car accident on Oct. 24, 2000 when returning from Price, Utah, where she had been conducting CASA training. Jayne felt that a stuffed animal was one of the things that an abused and neglected child could cling to.